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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

This is in reference to my letter dated 22 August 1998 regarding the facts pertaining to the "al-Shifa" Pharmaceutical Factory destructed by United States missiles on false allegations. Please find attached a list of documents providing more information refuting the American allegations that the factory produces chemical weapons. The documents are as follows:

1. Press Release by Dr. (Lawyer) Ghazi Suleiman, legal adviser of "al-Shifa" Pharmaceutical Company in which he gives the historical background of the establishment of the factory and its status of ownership.

2. An article published by "Asharq al-Awsat", Arab international newspaper, on 22 August 1998 where the former technical director of "al-Shifa" factory, Mr. Khalid Dalbouh (Jordanian), declares that the mentioned factory was also financed by the American Development Bank (literally translated from the Arabic).

3. An article by the AFP News Agency, in which a British engineer who worked at "al-Shifa" factory disputes United States claims.

4. An article by the AFP News Agency, in which a Jordanian engineer who worked at "al-Shifa" factory denies that the factory could have produced VX gas.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Council and circulate them as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

98-24722 (E) 240898

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Annex I

Press Statement

BY: DR .GHAZI SULEIMAN
THE LEGAL ADVISOR OF
AL-SHIFA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

Facts concerning the ownership & activities
of the factory destructed by the U.S on false allegations.

Khartoum-21August 1998

SHIFA Pharmaceutical Company

21 August 1998

PRESS RELEASE

Shifa Pharmaceutical Company is situated in Khartoum North Industrial Area, in an area of 21,00 metres and the total cost is approximately 32 Million US Dollars, and 100% private sector owned as it was established by Mr. Beshir Hassan Beshir - a Sudanese business man, with 40% co-operation of Baabood Marine Enterprises.

The Bank of Preferential Trade (PTA), Nairobi funded approximately 6 million Dollars. Ownership changed hands to business man Salah A. M. Idris and Ahmed Idris on March 29th 1998.

Shifa Pharmaceutical Company is one of the largest manufacturers of medicine in the Middle East and by far the largest in the Sudan. The factory was designed by an American expert named Henry Jobe, employed by M.S.D. Pharmaceutical Company , and who has the expertise in this field for over thirty years.

The Company consists of three factories for human medicine and one for veterinary medicine. There are more than seven production lines for manufacturing different medications. The modern machines were imported from Sweden, U.S.A., Italy, Switzerland, Germany, India and Thailand.

The Goal of the Company is to provide reasonably priced drugs and medications that are of use to the public. The Company has actually produced human and veterinary drugs and has marketed in the different pharmacies 30 different human medications and 10 veterinary drugs that cover 90% of the animal diseases.

Samples of these drugs include, children medicines, anti biotic, malaria treatment, hyper tension, diabetes, ulcer, tuberculosis, rheumatism, ... just as one example, the TB drug is produced solely by Shifa Co.in the Sudan and is sold at the low cost of 66,000 Pounds Sudanese, while other brands cost around 200,000 Sudanese Pounds.

The Company's production is 60% of the local market and 40% for export which has actually being started to the Yemen, Chad, and Nigeria; and lately To Iraq, with agreement of the United Nation (oil for food and drugs).

The Company was visited by many Important personalities and Dignitaries , to name but some:-

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President of the Niger and his Health Minister;
Foreign Affairs Minister of Burkina Faso;
Foreign Affairs, Kenya
President of Bank of Preferential Trade PTA., Nairobi;
Director World Health Program (East Mediterranean Region), Dr. Hussein Al Gazairi;
Health Minister, Borkina Faso;
Ex Health Minister, The Yemen;
Ex British Ambassador to the Sudan;
The German Ambassador;
Chadien Medical Supplies Director
Arab Doctors Confrence Delegates;
Arab Vets Confrence Delegates;
Over Two thousand Sudanese Pharmacists, Physicians and General Practitioners
All Vets inKhartoum Province
Sheperds Union

The Company has always been open to visitors including scholol children.

Shifa Pharmaceutical Company was totally destroyed.....several staff were wounded and one died as a result of his wounds.

1. The buildings and machinery cost 32 Million US Dollars;
2. Raw material at the cost of over 5 Million Dollars;
3. Ready medicines at over 2 Million Dollars cost;
3. Empty containers and bottles plus new machnier (specially for skin products) at the cost of 3 Million Dollars;
4. Some Raw material at Khartoum Airport, imported from Egypt;
5. 306 staff are left redundant with a dependancy of 3000 person.

One can see what has re nained now after this devastating destruction.

THEREFORE

We request an International Committee of experts for investigation and fact finding mission to clarify all the false allegations and ask for the compensation for the total loss of the factory.

Thank You

Dr Ghazi Suleiman

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Annex II

صحيفة الشرق الاوسط . السبت ٢٢ أغسطس ١٩٩٨

المدير الفني السابق للمصنع يطالب واشنطن بدفع تعويضات عن الخسائر التي ألحقت به

بنك التنمية الأميركي ساهم في تمويل وتجهيز «مصنع الشفاء» بالخرطوم

عمان: «الشرق الأوسط»

طالب المدير الفني السابق لمصنع الشفاء السوداني الولايات المتحدة بدفع مبلغ 120 مليون دولار تعويضا عن الخسائر التي الحقتها به الصواريخ الاميركية.

وقد المدير الفني للمصنع خالد ابو دلبوح الأردني الجنسية ما اسماه «بالادعاءات والافتراءات المستندة الى معلومات غير دقيقة ومضللة روجتها واشنطن لتبرر عدوانها الظالم على مؤسسة لانتاج الدواء البشري والأدوية البيطرية».

وقال ابو دلبوح في تصريحات صحافية في عمان ان هناك «معدات واجهزة اميركية في المصنع الذي تزعم اميركا انه مصنع للكيماويات. ومن بينها اجهزة فحص المواد وة اجهزة للتحكم بالكومبيوتر اميركية وسويسرية الصنع اضافة الى جهاز اميركي لتوليد البخار ووحدة معالجة المياه من شركة برونز الاميركية».

واضاف ابو دلبوح «وهناك معدات واجهزة ومختبرات بريطانية وسويسرية وايطالية وسويدية وتايلاندية ودنماركية واميركية الصنع يمكن الرجوع اليها للتحقق من الاجهزة وخواصها وما تنتجه».

واكد ابو دلبوح «ان بنك التنمية الاميركي ساهم في شراء مواد خام اولية لانتاج المصنع بكلفة خمسة ملايين دولار. وان هناك ممثلين دائمين للبنك يراقبون كل حركة صغيرة كانت او كبيرة في المصنع ويداومون في المصنع للاطمئنان على حسن ادائه لضمان قيمة قرضهم».

وتابع القول «كما ان مدير البنك الافريقي كان يزور المصنع كل شهرين او ثلاثة اشهر».

واوضح ابو دلبوح «ان هناك سجلات موثقة لكل آلة او ماكينة في المصنع توضح مقدار ونوع اي انتاج في المصنع الذي كان يعمل وفق احدث الطرق في ظل مراقبة الكترونية بواسطة كومبيوترات حديثة اميركية وسويسرية وغيرها. كما ان كبار الزوار يترددون على المصنع الذي يعتبر مثاليا في ادائه ونوعية الماكينات المستخدمة في انتاجه».

وقال ابو دلبوح الذي عمل في صناعة الادوية في الاردن (ادوية الحكمة) لمدة 19 عاما والآن يدير مصنع ادوية الجزيرة السعودي: انه تعاقد مع مسؤولين في ادارة المصنع السوداني وهما بشير حسن ومحمد عبدة للاعداد للمصنع من يناير (كانون الثاني) 1995 وحتى نوفمبر (تشرين الثاني) 1997. حيث انتقلت ملكية المصنع مطلع العام الجاري الى رجل الأعمال صلاح ادريس. واضاف ابو دلبوح انه عايش المصنع منذ الخطوات الأولى اي منذ وضع اعمدة الأساس وغادره بعد تشغيله بسبعة أشهر وساهم في شراء جميع ماكيناته ومعداته. موضحا ان مكونات المصنع هي لتصنيع الأدوية والبنسلين والمعقمات والادوية البيطرية للحيوانات وهو منفصل عن المصانع للادوية البشرية. وينتج المصنع ايضا البودرات والعبوات والسوائل الدوائية والكبسولات والحبوب.

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Unofficial Translation

Aman, 22 August 1998, ASHARQ AL-AWSAT

Former Technical Director of the Factory demands compensation from Washington for losses it inflicted upon the factory.

American Development Bank contributed to the financing and establishment of al-Shifa Factory in Khartoum.

Former Technical Director of Sudanese al-Shifa Factory demanded that USA pay $120.000.000.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Million US Dollars) as compensation for the losses caused by the American missiles attack. The Technical Director, Mr. Khalid Abu Dalbouh, (a Jordanian national) refuted the allegation which lack precise information and deceiving at the same time propagated by Washington to justify its unjust aggression against a pharmaceutical corporation which produce human and veterinary medicine

Abu Dalbouh added in a press statement in Aman that the factory which America alleged that it produces chemical precursor contains 6 Swiss and American computers control equipment in addition to an American machine for generation of vapor and a unit for water processing manufactured by the American company (Bronze)

Abu Dalbouh added that the factory contains equipment, machinery and laboratories manufactured in Britain, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Thailand, Denmark and USA and that the manufacturers could be contacted to verify the nature of the equipment and what they produce. He also confirmed that the American Development Bank contributed with $5,000.000.00 (Five Million USA Dollars), for the purchase of raw materials for the factory's production, the Bank has permanent representatives inside the factory to supervise every activity, be it small or large, so as to be assured of its efficient performance as a guarantee regarding its loan.

Dalbouh added that there is a record for every machine in the factory which explains the quality and quantity of the factory, which was using advanced technology i e modern American and Swiss computers and other advanced machinery. Distinguished dignitaries use to visit the

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factory which is considered as a model as regards the quality of its machinery and performance. Abu Dalbouh, who works in the manufacturing of medicine industry for 19 years (Adwiat al-Hikma), currently in charge of the administration of the Gezira pharmaceutical factory in Saudi Arabia, said that he was following the development of the al-Shifa factory since its inception and left it 7 months after it started operation, he participated in purchasing all its machinery and equipment explaining that the factory components are for the production of penicillin and antibiotics and veterinary medicine

Annex III

British engineer who worked at Sudan factory disputes US claim

[Latest News From Sudan At Sudan Net]

News Article by AFP on August 22, 1998 at 14:03:50:

British engineer who worked at Sudan factory disputes US claim

LONDON, Aug 22 (AFP) - A British engineer who helped build and equip the factory in Sudan destroyed by a US missile strike earlier this week said Saturday it could not have been used to manufacture chemical weapons.

Tom Carnaffin of Hexham, northern England, said he worked for four years as a technical manager for the family who owns the pharmaceutical plant.

"I have intimate knowledge of that factory and it just does not lend itself to the manufacture of chemical weapons," he said.

He also said he doubted the US claim that the factory was manufacturing chemical-warfare related material in the veterinary part of the factory.

"I have intimate knowledge of that part of the establishment and unless there have been some radical changes in the last few months it just isn't equipped to cope with the demands of chemical weapon manufacturing.

"You need things like airlocks but this factory just has doors leading out onto the street," he said.

Carnaffin said he worked in Khartoum at the al-Shifa medicine factory between 1992 and 1996 and since then has worked closely with its owners, the Baaboud family, and has been in contact with them two or three times a week.

He also said that the factory was in the process of being sold to a Saudi national.

Annex IV

Engineers deny Sudan factory could have produced VX gas

[Latest News From Sudan At Sudan.Net]

News Article by AFP on August 22, 1998 at 14:05:18:

Engineers deny Sudan factory could have produced VX gas

AMMAN, Aug 22 (AFP) - The pharmaceutical complex of Al-Shifa, destroyed Thursday in a US cruise missile strike, could not have produced chemical weapons as Washington claims, engineers who oversaw the plant's production said Saturday.

"The factory was designed to produce medicine and it would be impossible to convert it to make anything else," the Jordanian engineer Mohammed Abul Waheed told reporters at a press conference organised by the Sudanese embassy in Amman.

Another Jordanian engineer who worked at the plant denied the factory had any links with Osama bin Laden, whom the US has blames for the twin August 7 bombings at US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam that left 257 dead.

"Osama bin Laden has no relation to this matter, whether financial, organisational, administrative or anything," said Ahmed Salem.

A third colleague, Abu Dalbouh, said the factory produced antibiotics for humans and animals and had no facilities to produce VX gas, as the United States has alleged.

"I think this is very, very impossible," Dalbouh said. "We don't have any (production) line to produce that gas."

The three Jordanians said they had overseen construction and the first three months production of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant which opened in July 1997.

Al-Shifa was a complex of three factories in an industrial area surrounded by residential districts in Khartoum North.